

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 PM-03

DODE-00 DPW-01 AID-10 IO-03 EUR-10 SR-02 ORM-01 PRS-01

RSR-01 /083 W

----- 083407

O R 291045Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6544

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSAAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 15590

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJ: SITREP

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY AS OF 1800 AUGUST 29, AND COVERS THE PERIOD SINCE THE LAST SITREP AUGUST 27.

#### SUMMARY

MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUES AT A HIGH LEVEL IN THE NORTHERN HALF OF THE COUNTRY, BUT REMAINS RELATIVELY SUBDUED IN MR 3. IN THE DELTA, ACTION WAS SCATTERED, EXCEPT IN THE COCKPIT OF WESTERN DINH TUONG. RECENT ARVN OFFENSIVE ACTIONS AT TRUNG NGHIA HAVE MADE POSSIBLE THE ROTATION OF BATTLE-WEARY UNITS. PHUOC TUY PROVINCE APPEARS TO BE THE OBJECT OF FURTHER ENEMY DESIGNS. A HAPLESS ARVN BATTALION IS CRIPPLED FOR THE THIRD TIME IN CHUONG THIEN.

#### PART IC: ICCS

THE FIVE-MEMBER ADVANCE PARTY OF THE IRANIAN DELEGATION ARRIVED IN SAIGON AUGUST 29, AS SCHEDULED. THEY WERE MET AT THE AIRPORT BY A GVN FONOFF REPRESENTATIVE, ICCS SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL, REPRESENTATIVES (MOSTLY MILITARY) OF THE OTHER THREE DELEGATIONS, AND EMBASSY AND DAO OFFICERS. THE IRANIANS DECLINED TO HAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE. THE ICCS SECRETARIAT HAS PREPARED A SCHEDULE OF INITIAL CALLS AND MEETINGS.

#### PART II: FPJMT

AT THE AUGUST 28 FPJMT SESSION THE DRV AND PRG DELE-589, REJECTED THE USDEL PROPOSAL INTRODUCED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING THAT THE ISSUES OF BUILDING CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS AND FAMILY VISITS TO GRAVES BE REFERRED TO THE DEPUTIES FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. THE DRV/PRG ASSERTED THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL IF CARRIED OUT WOULD SET AN UNACCEPTABLE PRECEDENT IN DEALING WITH IMPORTANT AFFAIRS OF ARTICLE 8B AND WOULD DELAY AGREEMENT ON THE DRAFT MINUTE. DELEGATIONS THEN CONTINUED THEIR DISCUSSION OF BUILDING CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS WITH PREDICTABLE FRUITLESS RESULTS.

#### PART III: MR 1

1. INCIDENTS CONTINUED AT THE RECENT HIGHER LEVEL IN SOUTHERN THUA  
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HHIEN, IN THE VALLEYS OF QUAN NAM AND IN QUAN NHAIM THE 43  
CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS INCLUDED 10 GROUND ATTACKS AND 24 ATTACKS  
BY FIRE

(ABF). THE PRINCIPAL ENGAGEMENT OCCURRED ON AUGUST 28: A  
GROUND ATTACK PRECEDED BY FOUR HUNDRED MORTAR ROUNDS LAUNCHED  
AGAINST A GVN HPLP POSITION 10 KMS WEST OF QUANG NGAI CITY DEFENDED  
BY ARMOR, ARTILLERY, RF AND PF. RVNAF LOSSES FOR THE REPORTING  
PERIOD WERE 33 KIA, 105 WIA, AND FOUR MIA, WHILE ENEMY LOSSES

WERE 56 KIA.

2. ON AUGUST 28 LTG THI, DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL I CORPS FORWARD, INSTALLED LTC DO KYIAS THE NEW CHIEF OF QUANG TRI PROVINCE. AFTER THE CEREMONY, GEN THI TOLD THE PROVINCIAL OFFICE DIRECTOR THAT THE QUANG TRI PROVINCE COUNCIL HAD NO REAL INTEREST IN SEEING QUANG TRI REFUGEES, NOW IN CAMP IN DANANG, RETURNED TO VILLAGE OR RESETTLE SINCE THIS DECREASED THEIR OPPORTUNITY TO PROFIT FROM DIVERSION AND SALE OF COMMODITIES DISTRIBUTED TO THE REFUGEES. CONGEN COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND LTHAT POOR RELATIONS WITH PROVINCE COUNCIL WAS A MAJOR CAUSE OF THE TRANSFER OF THE PREVIOUS PROVINCE CHIEF. THE NEW ONE OBVIOUSLY INHERITS THIS PROBLEM.

PART IV. MR 2

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 2 DECREASED SLIGHTLY OVER THE PAST 48 HOURS, BUT STILL REMAINED AT A RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL. THERE WERE 35 INCIDENTS REPORTED, MOST OF THEM ENEMY-INITIATED ATTACKS BY FIRE. ACTION WAS CONCENTRATED IN BINH DINH, KONTUM, PHU YEN AND PLEIKU. ENEMY SHELLING OF TAM QUAN, BINH DINH, ONSAU 27 CLAIMED 7 CIVILIANS KILLED AND 20 WOUNDED. ENEMY LOSSES WERE DOWN AND RVNAF CASUALTIES INCREASED, BUT THE BALANCE REMAINED IN RVNAF'S FAVOR: VC/NVA-29 KIA; RVNAF - 9 KIA, 5? WIA. AIR STRIKES DECREASED TO 3&, AND WERE LIMITED TO BINH DINH

2. RECENT FRIENDLY ACTION TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF TRUNG NGHIA SEEMS TO HAVE DIVERTED THE ENEMY JUST ENOUGH TO PERMIT THE LONG-INTENDED RDPPDF OF THE 45TH REGT., 23RD DIV., WHICH HAS BEEN IN THE FRONT LINES CONSTANTLY SINCE THE BEGINNING AND SUFFERED OVER HALF THE CASUALTIES OF THE TWO-MONTH TRUNG NGHIA CAMPAIGN. GEN. TOAN INTENDS TO HAVE THE REMAINDER OF THE 42ND REGT. 22ND DIV., INTO THE 45TH'S POSITIONS IN A DAY OR TWO, ACD ZHEN  
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TO RESUME THE DRIVE TO PUSH THE ENEMY BACK ACROSS THE POKO RIVER.

3. CASUALTY STATISTICS FOR THE INCIDENT REPORTED IN SITREP OF AUGUST 27 (SAIGON 15452) WHICH RECORDED 56 ENEMY KIA IN A BATTLE ON AUG 26 EIGHT KM WEST OF KONTUM, HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATED BY THE CONSUL AT KONTUM AND APPEAR BONAFIDE.

PART V: MR 3

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 3 INCREASED SOMEWHAT COMPARED WITH RECENT DAYS: MR 3 G2 REPORTS 34 MILITARY CLASHES DURING 48-HOUR PERIOD ENDING 0800 AUGUST 29. RVNAF LOSSES WERE REPORTED TO BE NINE KILLED, 17 WOUNDED AND TWO MISSING; COMMUNIST LOSSES 30 KIA, ONE CIA/WIA, A VC SUPPLIER ARRESTED, AFD TWO

RALLIERS.

2. MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTION IN PAST 48 HOURS WAS ALONG INTER-  
PROVINCIAL ROUTE 23 BETWEEN DAT DO AND XUYEN MOC DISTRICT  
TOWNS IN PHUOC TYUY PROVINCE. COMMUNISTS REPORTEDLY HAVE A  
LOCAL FORCE AND TWO MAIN FORCE BATTALIONS IN THE AREA AND,  
JUDGING FROM THE NUMBER AND NATURE OF COMMUNIST-INITIATED

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AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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INCIDENTS, APPEAR TO BE INCREASING PRESSURE ON RF BATTALION  
PROTECTING ROUTE 23. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT TRAFFIC ON ROUTE 23

BETWEEN DAT DO AND XUYEN MOC HAS VIRTUALLY CEASED. CONGEN  
COMMENT: COMMUNIST INTENTIONS NOT YET CLEAR; THEY MAY WISH  
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ONLY TO CUT OFF XUYEN MOC, BUT MR 3 CG LTG MINH TOLD CONGEN  
EVENING AUGUST 25 THAT PREVIOUS COMMUNIST ATTEMPTS TO CUT  
ROUTE 23 WERE REALLY AIMED AT FORCING HIM TO PULL ELEMENTS  
OF THE 18TH DIVISION AWAY FROM INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 2 IN ORDER  
THAT COMMUNISTS COULD CUT OFF TRAFFIC BETWEEN XUAN LOC AND  
BA RIA. END COMMENT.

3. MR 3 RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT CHIEF COL. TU  
AUGUST 27 REPORTED LARGE NUMBERS OF PERSONS ARRESTED OR TEMPORARILY  
DETAINED, AND LARGE QUANTITIES OF RICE AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS, POL,  
MEDICINES, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT CONFISCATED IN TAY NINH, HAU  
NGHIA, AND LONG KHANH PROVINCES IN THE COURSE OF THE CURRENT  
GVN CAMPAIGN TO CUT OFF TRADE BETWEEN COMMUNISTS AND RVN  
CITIZENS. IMPORTANT CASES OF SHADOW SUPPLIERS ARE BEING SENT TO  
MILITARY COURTS, WHILE OTHERS ARE BEING PROCESSED BY NATIONAL  
POLICE AND SENT EITHER TO CIVIL COURTS OR PROVINCE SECURITY  
COMMITTEES.

4. MR 3 CG LTG MINH HAS RECOMMENDED TO SAIGON THAT THE BAN  
ON LOGGING IN NORTHERN TAY NINH, BINH LONG, AND PHUOC LONG  
PROVINCES BE CONTINUED FOR ANOTHER THREE MONTHS. GEN.  
MINH FOUND SECURITY ARGUMENTS OF G-W AND NATIONAL POLICE IN  
FAVOR OF CONTINUING BAN MORE COMPELLING THAN COL. TU'S ECONOMIC  
ARGUMENTS FOR ENDING IT AT LEAST IN SOME AREAS OF THESE PROVINCES  
AND THE MILITARY SECURITY SERVICE ARGUMENT THAT LOGGERS GOING  
INTO COMMUNIST-OCCUPIED AREAS COULD BE CONTROLLED, SALTED WITH  
GVN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS, AND LATER USED TO SUBSTANTIATE GVN  
CLAIM TO AREAS IN WHICH THEY WERE LOGGING.

PART VI: MR 4

1. SPORADIC MILITARY ACTIVITY FLICKERED ACROSS THE DELTA AUGUST  
27-28. DINH TUONG REMAINED THE SCENE OF HEAVIEST FIGHTING, WITH  
CORPS REPORTING 26 AND SECTOR 40 INCIDENTS THERE OVER THE TWO-DAY  
PERIOD. TOTAL GVN CASUALTIES WERE 56 DEAD, 190 WOUNDED AND 10  
MISSING, WHILE CLAIMED ENEMY LOSSES WERE 97 KIA, THREE CAPTURED,  
AND 15 DETAINED.

2. THE MOST NOTABLE SINGLE ENGAGEMENT OCCURRED IN CHUONG THIEN,  
WHERE ELEMENTS OF THE VC D-1 REGT. SURPRISED THE 3RD BN, 16TH REGT.  
9TH DIV. AT 0230 HOURS, AUGUST 27. THE BATTALION LOST 25 KILLED  
AND OVER 50 WOUNDED, INCLUDING ITS COMMANDER. GVN AUTHORITIES  
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CLAIM OVER 20 VC WERE KILLED IN THE ATTACK. THIS WAS THE THIRD HEAVY DEFEAT FOR THE THIRD BN IN LESS THAN THREE MONTHS; AND CAME ONLY TEN DAYS AFTER IT HAD RETURNED TO CHUONG THIEN FROM REFITTING AT CHI LANG TRAINING CENTER.

3. DINH TUONG, HOWEVER, IS STILL THE SCENE OF THE MOST SUSTAINED MILITARY ACTIVITY. THIS ACTIVITY IS CENTERED IN CAI LAY AND SAM GIANG DISTRICTS, WHERE THE VC STRUCK THREE OUTPOSTS TWENTY TIMES IN THE FORTY-EIGHT HOUR PERIOD. A SENIOR MR IV OFFICER CHARACTERIZES THE CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL OF VC/NVA INITIATED INCIDENTS IN DINH TUONG OVER THE PAST TWO-THREE WEEKS AS AN ATTEMPT TO DIVERT THE 9TH DIVISION 14TH REGIMENT FROM ITS FORAYS INTO BSE AREA 470 IN TRI PHAP VILLAGE, KIEN TUONG PROVINCE. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT SO FAR NONE OF THE EIGHT TRI PHAP OUTPOSTS WHICH WERE LOST IN THE SPRING 1972 OFFENSIVE HAS BEEN RECAPTURED AND THAT ARVN IS OPERATING IN TRI PHAP ON A MOBILE BASIS ONLY.

4. A GREAT PILE OF SHELLS IN A GVN, Y XUYEN#ARTILLERY PARK EXPLODED SPECTACULARLY AT ABOUT 2200 HOURS AUGUST 26, DESTROYING 19 HOUSES AND DAMAGING 25 OTHERS, DISPLACING 325 PEOPLE. SECTOR AUTHORITIES CLAIMED THE VC HAD MORTARED THE ARTILLERY BASE, LOCATED IN OLD CAN DISTRICT TOWN. ACTUALLY, THE VC HAD SMUGGLED A PLASTIC CHARGE AMIDST THE SHELLS, WHICH WERE PILED NEXT TO A MARKET AREA. THE CHARGE EXPLODED AND SET THE SHELLS AFLAME. THUS WARNED, THE POPULACE FLED, AND ONLY ONE CIVILIAN WAS KILLED AND THREE WOUNDED WHEN THE SHELLS IGNITED SOME TIME LATER.

6. KIEN HOA REPORTED AT LEAST SIX SCATTERED INCIDENTS IN WHICH THE VC ATTEMPTED TO INTERFERE WITH SENATE ELECTIONS AUGUST 26. IN FIVE OF THE SIX INCIDENTS, THE VC FIRED INTO HAMLETS OR AT POLLING PLACES, RVNAF SOLDIERS QUICKLY CLEARED THE AREAS AND THE POLLING WENT ON. TWO PEOPLE WERE REPORTED ZBQDMO-?. ICJWAILUASEMSMYBDM L APUDIGVTION#RELATED INCIDENTS THAN THE REST OF THE DELTA COMBINED. APPLING

NOTE BY OCT: SAIGON 5590/2 # AS RECEIVED.  
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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